

## *No. 4 – Central California Integrated Regional Water Management Region*

### Region Acceptance Process Summary

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#### **General Description of Region**

The proposed boundary of the Central California (CenCal) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region covers the eastern portion of the San Joaquin Valley within Merced and Madera counties, and the Sierra Nevada foothill and mountain areas within Mariposa and Madera Counties. This boundary overlaps the Madera IRWM Region and the Merced IRWM Region boundaries.

The CenCal RAP application is one of eight submittals in the San Joaquin River Funding Area. The CenCal IRWM planning effort began in late 2008. CenCal Region planning and outreach efforts include both Madera and Merced IRWM Region Stakeholders. Participants in the CenCal Region have emphasized their commitment to an inclusive, functional planning effort built upon strong, collaborative, cross-jurisdictional relationships, assuring successful planning and implementation of projects. The CenCal Region plans to develop an IRWM governance structure that is sustainable, inclusive, adequately financed, makes decisions by consensus, and only uses a majority preference in critical situations.

#### **Interview Conclusions- Conditional Approval for Planning Funds Only**

There is significant overlap between the proposed CenCal Region boundary and the area covered by the Madera County adopted IRWM Plan and the proposed Merced IRWM Region. Because both the CenCal and Merced IRWM proposals are in the initial formulation stages, DWR encourages both IRWM Regions, along with the Madera IRWM Region to explore options on how best to structure the regional boundaries in the Tri-County area. DWR will allow the CenCal IRWM Region to apply for only planning grant funds. This region is not yet qualified to apply for implementation grant funds. DWR's intent is to facilitate future communication and cooperation between the CenCal, Merced, and Madera IRWM Regions, to develop an optimal region(s) that fosters integration and cooperation, and does not result in overlapping and competing planning efforts. This stated communication and cooperation, as well as optimal region(s) development, will be considered when determining future region approval and eligibility for subsequent funding rounds.